

I am a US Navy veteran, and as such have only had my **right to** carry a concealed firearm since June as I am exempt from the ridiculous training requirement imposed by Maryland as part of the concealed carry licensing scheme. Hundreds of thousands, it not millions more Marylanders are having their **right** denied as they are still awaiting classroom training because all the classes in the state are filled to capacity. Therefore, you do not even have 8 months' worth of data, let alone years' worth, to see what if any impact this has had in Maryland, but I can tell you this. Contrary to Brian Frosh's dire predictions, there has not been blood in the streets.

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher said in a WBAL interview that we can carry in our home and in other homes we have permission to. NYSRPA vs Bruen held, among other things, that the Second Amendment protects the **right** to carry a handgun for self-defense in public. This bill seeks to criminalize that activity. New York states similar attempts have already been struck down by the US Supreme Court since then. Someone else said that that same interview on WBAL that if people don't feel safe nothing else matters. There is a critical difference between being safe and feeling safe. I would argue that is ludicrous. We have decades of data that shows how bad crime has been with concealed carry holders in play. We do not feel safe in this state as you have routinely proven that you either cannot or will not protect us. You have routinely failed in your duties to protect us and that must remain in our hands as you cannot be trusted with it. The areas that are outlined as off limits are precisely the areas where concealed carry holders need their guns the most to protect themselves and others from the violent criminals that you cannot protect us from. I urge you not to follow New York's lead on this. We will fight you in court, you will lose, you will waste our time and money and *YOU PEOPLE* will cost lives, not us.

This body is well aware of the uptick in organized carjacking in the state. So here is some food for thought. Most of the time I am driving around these days is with my two daughters that are 9 and 11. Under this bill, I would yet again be left defenseless if a carjacking were to occur. Am I to assume that the members of this body condone human trafficking and child exploitation? That is, in essence, what you are doing. This bill continues to limit the **right** of the people to protect themselves outside the home in the manner in which they deem fit.

This bill effectively eviscerates my right to carry in public for self-defense. This bill comes with criminal penalties, which in other neighboring jurisdictions such as Pennsylvania only amounts to being asked to leave, or trespassed, not thrown in prison for exercising a constitutionally protected **right**. Allowing citizens to carry outside of the home under SB1 effectively takes away our **right**.

Lawful concealed carry holders are among the most law-abiding citizens in this country. The only people the gun control laws help are criminals. Feeling safe and being safe are two completely different things. Don't tell me that i can't carry a firearm to protect ourselves when you know that you cannot protect us